

NSC BRIEFING

20 June 1957

SOVIETS CANCEL MOSCOW AIR SHOW

- I. Moscow press on 21 June announced that annual Soviet Air Force Day air show (scheduled for 30 June) "will not take place" because of "bad weather at the present time and unfavorable forecasts."
 - A. In fact weather will probably be bad in Moscow on 30 June.
- II. However, this is probably not the whole reason.
 - A. This year's show had usual publicity build-up, foreign delegations had been invited, and there had been eight rehearsals.
 - B. Past shows postponed for bad weather, not cancelled.
 1. 1956 show actually took place in miserable weather.
 - C. One reason for cancellation might be operational failure.
 1. Soviets have in past shown new aircraft so untested they wobbled in the air.
 2. This year one rehearsal of aerial refueling by BADGER (B-47 type) flopped when hose fell to ground among spectators. (There were also successful rehearsals of refueling by both BISON and BADGER).
 - D. Another reason for calling off show might be reluctance to have big military display during London disarmament talks.
- III. This year's show was apparently to follow usual pattern.
 - A. New aircraft observed in rehearsal included two large jet transports, one light or medium bomber, and one fighter designed for use on short runways.
 - B. In addition US Attache saw on ground "flying bedstead"-- apparently vertical take-off jet aircraft.

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